

REMARKS

The Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated September 28, 2009 upheld the rejection of claims 15 to 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either U.S. Patent No. 3,552,886 to Olson or U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0039531 to Morita et al. in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0129603 to Schorr et al.

Claims 25 to 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 25, 30 and 31 are hereby amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 26 to 29 are dependent on claim 25. In view of these amendments, allowance of claims 25 to 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 to 24 are hereby canceled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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